

SERIAL  
STORYThe  
Isolated  
ContinentA Romance of the  
FutureBy  
Guido von Horvath  
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## SYNOPSIS.

For fifty years the continent of North America had been isolated from the rest of the world by the use of Z-rays, a wonderful invention of Hannibal Prudent. The invention had saved the country from foreign invasion, and the continent had been united under one government with Prudent as president. For half a century peace and prosperity reigned in this part of the world. The story opens with Prudent critically ill. His death is hastened by the receipt of a message from Count von Werdenstein of Germany that he has at last succeeded in penetrating the rays. Dying, he warns his daughter Astra that this means a foreign invasion. He tells her to hurry to the island of Clyne, but dies before he can tell the location of the place. Astra is nominated for the presidency by the continental party. Napoleon Edison calls on Astra, informs her that he was a pupil of her father's, and promises to help her. He gives her a ring made of a newly discovered substance which, he says, will solve the problem of flying. Chevalier di Leon appears in Europe. He calls on von Werdenstein and offers him the secret of making gold in return for absolute disarmament and peace. The chevalier is suspected of being an American. He is seized at night and carried off in an aeroplane. Astra is inaugurated as president. She receives a message from Edison, whose long silence has worried her, that he has been a prisoner for two months on the island of Helgoland and has just escaped. He announces that the confederate fleet of Europe has sailed for America. He promises to call on her the following night. Countess Rosina, a spy, becomes a prisoner in hope of securing Napoleon's secret. She falls in love with him. She agrees to join him in an attempt to escape. By the use of fireworks he summons a curious flying machine which resembles a monster eagle. He escapes and sends his message to Astra. Edison calls on Astra as promised. He tells her his plans for defense have been completed, but that he will give full details at his workshop on the island of Clyne in three hours. His plans are based on the peculiarity of the new substance, Z-ray, which is lighter than any known metal and is practically indestructible. The Europeans succeed in passing the line of isolation, but find that the Americans have established a second one. Edison delivers a note to von Werdenstein in his flagship demanding that the fleet be withdrawn.

## CHAPTER X.—Continued.

The eagle lingered above the right wing of the first line of dreadnoughts. Napoleon could inflict any damage he chose. He could almost count the number of men aboard each vessel. Werdenstein gave hurried orders, and watched eagerly for their execution.

A few minutes later two armored

monoplanes glided up from the flag-

ship and turned toward the eagle.

Napoleon must have suspected their

intention, for he circled higher and

higher up. The bats followed the

eagle; each monoplane carried four

men, each of whom carried small cal-

iber, mitrailleuse bombs and other am-

munition of war.

Still the eagle went higher and

higher, hovering above the north wing

of the long line of war boats. It was

so high now that it appeared only a

speck to the naked eye. The planes

ascended in a spiral, and they were

far behind. The eagle turned and led

the two planes along the line, near the

flagship. It descended quickly and

made a dip similar to the swoop of

the eagle on its prey that caused the

thousands of spectators to believe it

was falling, but before it touched the

water it darted forward and skimmed

the waves, its great wings touching

the water occasionally.

Napoleon watched the enemies who

were now above him. One had dropped

several bombs, but none had touched

the swiftly moving aerodrome. A turn

of the wheel caused the eagle to make

a circle before the Brigitta, then it

went higher and higher until it

reached the two monoplanes. Before

Napoleon knew what they were about

the two planes had opened fire; he

was so close to them that the bullets

fell on his aerodrome like hail. The

result was surprising. The deadly mis-

siles rebounded from the sides without

leaving a mark on the glittering body.

Napoleon had cleverly led them di-

rectly in front of the flagship, so that

the scene was enacted before the eyes

of the count and his staff. It was mar-

velous, the greatest play a man's eyes

had ever rested upon.

Napoleon turned to face the ascend-

ing bat. The count saw him reach up

to a lever that he had not used before.

He hesitated for a moment, but when

the first bomb was thrown at him he

pulled the lever; a flash followed. Zig-

zag lines of lightning burst forth and

the once armored monoplane was shat-

tered into a thousand bits. Its fate

seemed to shatter the nerve of the en-

gineer on the other plane, for he

turned and raced for the flagship. It

was too late. Napoleon pulled the

lever again and it followed its com-

rade into space.

The count was pale; he had been

given a terrible example of his ene-

my's power, still he did not turn back.

Orders were flashed to the two boats

nearest the eagle to open fire with

their heavy guns. Napoleon read the

order on his plate and was sad, but

he knew that the only way to save

the masses from annihilation was by

a painful operation.

His right hand was on the lever,

the left on the wheel; as the guns be-

low thundered, the bird man was far

away, and their shells were wasted.

But the next moment brought the

avenging answer; lightning after light-

ning darted toward the two boats, the

powder magazines exploded and the

dreaded giants were wrecks, sinking.

A few minutes later the boats were

gone, leaving a mass of floating debris

and dead men.

The Count von Werdenstein looked

at the scene helplessly. For the first

time in his life he realized how puny

he was.

He looked for the eagle, but it had

disappeared.

Boats were put out at once to re-

scue those who had not been killed by

the explosions; but the experiences of

that day had spread terror over the

whole fleet and the effect was demor-

alizing.

The Count von Werdenstein ordered

all the commanders to gather at the

flagship, for he felt that he had to de-

cide on some action. He paced the

bridge of the Brigitta. The navy and

army under his command, that he had

thought great enough to conquer the

whole world, had been defeated by a

single man.

When the council of war began the

count stood to talk, but before he said

a word a message from one of the

transport boats was handed him. It

read:

"We can see the other boats toward

the east, but we cannot communicate

with them. They are trying to reach

us, but can make no progress. Please

send orders."

## CHAPTER XI.

## Astra and Rositta.

The excitement caused by Napo-

leon's encounter with the enemy was in-

describable. The automatic electro-

stylograph on board the American

Eagle had recorded the action of the

fleet and had made a copy of the

count's answer to America's desires.

The attack on the aerodrome was

shown and the subsequent destruction

of the monoplanes. Napoleon Edison's

name was in large print on every

board. The Hourly Stylograph said

"God bless our deliverer!" The Ameri-

can comment was "The hero of

America." He was compared to Wash-

ington, to Lincoln and many other

great American patriots. His name

was on the lips of every citizen.

No one watched the helioboard with

such interest and none prayed for Na-

poleon's success more sincerely than

Astra as she sat in her library with the

Countess Rosina.

Astra's kindness toward the countess

had not soothed the pain she suffered.

She would have preferred a dungeon

of ancient times, where she could rave

at her and curse her, but she was a

secret service agent, and had early

learned the art of concealing her feel-

ings.

With passion burning in her heart

she was able to respond gracefully to

Astra. Even while she watched the

conflict of the American Eagle and

the European fleet she was scheming.

She lived for intrigue. Her soul

craved the excitement of battling

minds. She considered herself still

in the employ of the Count von Wer-

denstein, so she planned as she

thought the count would have de-

manded.

Santos Duprel came to report the

events of the day at the Z ray station,

and to put before Astra suggestions

for further defense. Napoleon could

not come personally, so he sent his

trusted assistant.

He was admitted to the library

where the countess sat.

Santos Duprel was a pleasant in-

dividual, having, as most fast men, a

keen sense of humor. He greeted the

two beautiful women with a broad

smile.

When Rositta retired to the rooms

that had been assigned her she sat

down at her dressing table and

looked at her reflection in the mirror.

She was still the same, but her

features were more refined, her

eyes more penetrating, her

mouth more firm. She was

more beautiful than ever.

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